



One of Connecticut's Only Pre and Post Release Program for Women and Men

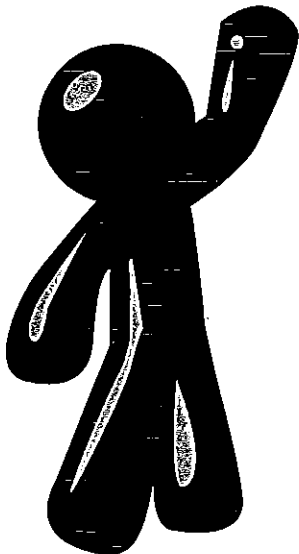
Skills • Transition • Respect • Integrity • Direction • Employment

STEPPING INTO THE FUTURE WITH PRIDE AND PURPOSE

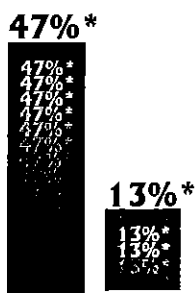
- The **STRIDE** Program is a unique, state-funded reentry transitional support workforce development program operating within the Quinebaug Valley Community College's Student Services Division.
- The **STRIDE** Program serves men and women who are non-custodial incarcerated parents, both pre- and post-release, from York Correctional Institution in Niantic, CT, Niantic Annex Correctional Institution in Niantic, CT Bridgeport Correctional Center in Bridgeport, CT, Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center in Uncasville, CT and New Haven Correctional Center in New Haven, CT.
- The class curriculum and post-release services are collaboratively designed with other state agencies to assist the women and men in successfully re-entering the workforce upon release, to resume their parental roles and become productive, employed members of their community.
- **STRIDE** is made possible through the collaborative efforts of CT's visionary state legislators, the CT Departments of Correction, Labor, Social Services Welfare to Work Initiative, and Support Enforcement Services.

STRIDE INFORMATION

- **1113 participants** served since program inception in 1999
- Currently, **forty-two percent** of our active clients are employed
- Over the past year, **97 jobs** have been secured by our clients
- **90%** of participants reunite with their families
- **Windham County Roundtable Council** Co-Founder
- **2012 Bellwether Award Winner in Workforce Development Category**
- **2009 CT Alliance for Basic Human Needs (CABHN) Award** for STRIDE's tireless work on shaping the 2010-2011 state budget
- **Workforce development national finalist** at Community College National Assembly 2007 Bellwether Awards
- **Bronze Telly Award winner** in 2007 for **STRIDE** video



CT Recidivism Rate Comparison



■ No Re-Entry Program
■ STRIDE Program Participants

*Based on the 2011 Annual Recidivism Report from the State of Connecticut, Office of Policy & Management Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division. **STRIDE recidivism rate based on all participating clients.

Cost Savings to State of Connecticut per Year

Without the STRIDE Program
1113 Participants (since program inception)
593 Estimated Returned to Prison (47% recidivism rate)
\$17,629,153 Cost to State per year**

With the STRIDE Program
1113 Participants (since program inception)
145 Estimated Returned to Prison (13% STRIDE recidivism rate)
\$4,887,624 Cost to State per year**

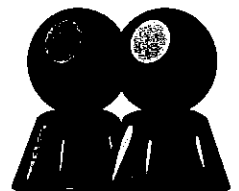
STRIDE Savings to State of CT per Year \$12,741,529

**Calculation made using \$92.35 Incarceration Cost Per Day based upon CT Department of Correction FY 09/10.

QUINEBAUG VALLEY
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QUINEBAUG VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
STRIDE PROGRAM WINNER OF THE 2012
BELLWETHER AWARD AT THE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE FUTURES ASSEMBLY

Released: February 7, 2012

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DANIELSON, CT – Quinebaug Valley Community College's STRIDE Program was selected as the winner of the 2012 National Bellwether Award in the Workforce Development category at the Community College Futures Assembly in Orlando, Florida on January 31, 2012. The Bellwether Award was established in 1995 and is a prestigious award given to colleges with innovative programs in the categories of Instructional Programs & Services; Planning, Governance & Finance; and Workforce Development. The STRIDE Program was a finalist for the Bellwether Award in 2007.

A team presentation called "Breaking Down the Walls: A Pathway to the American Dream", was presented by Dr. Ross Tomlin, president of Quinebaug Valley Community College; Dr. Patrick Hynes, director of the Best Practices Unit for the CT Department of Correction; Andrew Clark, director of the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at Central Connecticut State University; Aili Arisco, STRIDE program career specialist; Catherine Menounos, STRIDE program job developer; Julie Scrapchansky, STRIDE program director and a STRIDE graduate who shared her journey through incarceration and recovery. Lewis Robinson, chairman of the State of CT Board of Regents for Higher Education was in attendance for the presentation.

The Community College Futures Assembly, now in its 18th year, convenes annually as an independent national policy forum for key opinion leaders to work as a "think tank" in identifying critical issues facing the future of community colleges, and to recognize Bellwether Finalist colleges as trend-setting institutions.

2012 Bellwether Award for Workforce Development (L-R) Rob Clancey, President Elect, National Council for Continuing Education and Training, Director, Corporate College, Polk State College; Aili Arisco, STRIDE Program career specialist; Catherine Menounos, STRIDE Program job developer; Julie Scrapchansky, STRIDE Program director; Andrew Clark, director of the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy at Central Connecticut State University; Dr. Ross Tomlin, president, QVCC; Dale F. Campbell, Professor and Director, Community College Leadership Consortium, University of Florida. Missing from photo: Dr. Patrick Hynes, director the Best Practice Unit for the CT Department of Correction and Susan Menefee, STRIDE Program graduate.

For more information about STRIDE, contact Julie Scrapchansky, director, STRIDE program, 860-412-7320 or jscrapchansky@qvmc.commnet.edu.

Skills, Transition, Respect, Integrity, Direction and Employment are the words that represent this program. The STRIDE Program serves men and women who are non-custodial incarcerated parents, both pre- and post-release, with the occupational and job search skills and resources necessary to enter competitive employment positions. STRIDE serves York Correctional Institution, Niantic, CT; Niantic Annex Correctional Institution, Niantic, CT; Bridgeport Correctional Center, Bridgeport, CT; Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center in Uncasville, CT and New Haven Correctional Center, New Haven, CT www.QVCC.commnet.edu/stride



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QUINEBAUG VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE STRIDE PROGRAM WINNER OF THE 2012 BELLWETHER AWARD AT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE FUTURES ASSEMBLY



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Spring News

STRIDE Welcomes Two New Staff



Leigh Roberts and Earle Lobo are the STRIDE Program's newest job developers for Region II. Leigh has her Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, Connecticut. She has worked for a number of non-profit organizations in New Haven creating workforce opportunities, developing community initiatives and addressing overall quality of life concerns. Most recently, she worked for Housatonic Community College as the Workforce Development Coordinator creating training opportunities for companies of specific industries where their employees could increase their skill levels. Currently, Leigh is working on her Masters in Labor Relations at the University of New Haven.

Earle has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia. He has worked in the public school system in a variety of roles over the years. Most recently, he was a Family Liaison for Barnard Environmental Studies Magnet School where he ensured home, school and community worked together. He addressed barriers facing today's families and provided support through referrals and resources. Currently, he is an active mentor for youth in his community.

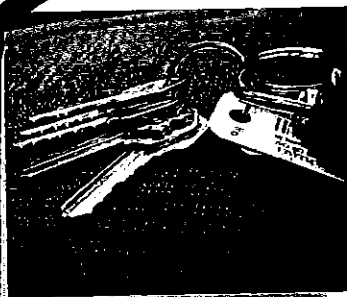
Submitted by:
Sue Gunderman

STRIDE EXPANDS TO ANOTHER FACILITY

The STRIDE Program began a new class at Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center in Uncasville, Connecticut on February 10, 2012 with ten participants. As each participant begins this program, they embark on a journey through navigating the world of work and preparing for reuniting with their families. A special thank you to all the staff at the facility who have been so supportive of our program and staff during its start-up. Collaboration is the key to making reentry work.

Submitted by:
Sue Gunderman





DUI Home Confinement Program

Soon offenders convicted of operating a motor vehicle under the influence in Connecticut may be able to serve their mandatory sentence on home confinement instead of serving their entire mandatory sentences at a correctional facility. Connecticut Public Act 11-51 allows the Department of Correction to release certain identified offenders with mandatory DUI sentences to home confinement. Based upon an assessment, the Department of Correction may require the eligible offender to be electronically monitored during their confinement period.

Upon sentenced admittance to a correctional facility, DOC Addiction Services staff will initially screen each DUI offender to determine eligibility for the home confinement program. An offender will be deemed ineligible if they have any current charges in addition to the DUI. Those that meet the initial requirements for the program will be assessed and reviewed by trained staff based upon perceived criminal risk, treatment need and community factors.

Once the assessment is completed, the offender is placed into one of four DUI Home Confinement tracks. Each track has certain requirements that the offender must meet. Track progress will be continuously monitored, paying particular attention to the offender's attitude and treatment engagement level throughout their progression. Therefore, once the assigned track requirements are fulfilled, the offender can potentially be released to home confinement. However, track four is considered a high risk classification and requires intensive treatment. Offenders placed in this track are not appropriate for home confinement release.

Cases are forwarded to Parole and Community Services once the offender satisfactorily completes track requirements. Parole reviews any facility recommendations and assigns the offender to an officer. The assigned parole officer then conducts a pre-release interview and performs a home investigation. Treatment referrals are made and the offender's level of supervision is determined. Throughout the period of home confinement, the offender is subject to compliance checks. Any detection of alcohol use during home confinement will result in the return of the offender to the correctional facility.

Submitted by:

Meghan Niedzwicki

Employer Spotlight

As most of our participants can attest to, finding employment with a background can sometimes be a challenge. As such, STRIDE works with employers all over the state to create opportunities and forge relationships so that our clients can refer to a network of employers that, if they are qualified for the positions, have a chance of being

hired. The employer that we are featuring this month has locations throughout the state making it a benefit to our participants living in a variety of areas. This company is a one-stop wholesaler for restaurants supplying fresh, frozen, and dry foods as well as supplies and equipment. They mainly service independent food service operators; believing in doing whatever it takes to ensure that customers get the best values. This company also believes in recognizing and rewarding the hard work of their staff. Opportunities for advancement and continually lookout for future leaders already employed in the company. If you don't mind hard work, are responsible, and eager to learn, it might just be the place for you!

They have positions ranging from cashiering, general help, department managers, receiving clerks, inventory controllers, customer service, and administrative assistants. This is a company where teamwork thrives, where there is opportunity for upward mobility, and a positive work/life balance environment exists. Two of our participants have been hired here and love every minute of it. One of them, because of increased hard work and dedication, was promoted to a full-time position.

We are proud of the relationship that we have established and even more proud of the success of our participants who have been employed there. Keep up the good work!

Submitted by:
Lelgh Roberts

STRIDE Participant Advocates for Ordinance

Ex-offenders face many challenges when returning to society. Tania, a STRIDE graduate, knows these challenges all too well. She lost her nursing license when she was convicted of a felony for which she served time at York Correctional Institution. But Tania has not given up on getting her nursing license back, and the city of New Haven is hoping to make it easier for ex-offenders like her, to make an honest living.

Tania recently advocated for ex-offenders at a news conference held at City Hall on January 13, where New Haven Mayor John DeStefano Jr. proposed an ordinance which would enable ex-offenders to become licensed street vendors. The ordinance titled, "Collateral Consequences Ordinance," refers to the consequences that result from a criminal conviction that are not part of the sentence. Amy Meek, Coordinator of the City of New Haven Reentry Initiative, explains that the ordinance hopes to, "set consistent standards for assessing the prior criminal convictions for city-issued license and permits."

Tania spoke at the news conference about her personal experience, "I only was in trouble this one time," she said. The city of New Haven as well as The New Haven Legal Assistance Association is helping her to get her nursing license back. Most recently, Tania secured a full-time position in a medical related field.

Submitted by:

Sarah Therrien

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